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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/660,012	09/12/2000	Masahiro Yatake	U 012948-0	6074

7590
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06/27/2003

EXAMINER -

FAISON, VERONICA F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1755

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/660,012

Applicant(s)

YATAKE ET AL.

Examiner

Veronica F. Faison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 13-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 13-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/370,783.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 have been amended and claim 22 has been added. Hence, claims 1-10 and 13-22 are pending in the application. Applicant's amendment was persuasive to the extent that the objection to the specification has been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 10 was amended to state " C_r-C_{10} "; it is the opinion of the Examiner that the subscript r should be a subscript 4. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 4, Applicant has the variable subscript k in formula I wherein R is C_aH_{2a-k-1} has not been defined. Therefore it is not possible for the Examiner to determine what would read on the formula as claimed by Applicant. Please clarify.

It is the opinion of the Examiner that two k's in one formula is confusing. For instance are both k's which are set forth in the formula represented by the same range, because it appears that only one k is defined (i.e. k is the number of groups of $-(EO)_n-(PO)_m-$ which is R. The Examiner suggests changing one of these ks to another letter.

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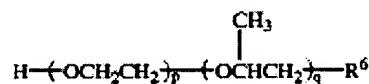
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5-10, 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai et al.

Nagai et al. teach an image recording method and recording liquid comprising a coloring agent and a solvent in which the coloring agent is dispersed or dissolved which is applied to a recording material wherein a colorless or light colored image recording acceleration liquid containing a surfactant and a viscosity-increasing compound capable of increasing the viscosity of the recording liquid (abstract) is applied in addition to the recording liquid. The surfactant used in the image recording acceleration liquid comprise at least one compound for example formula (5):



wherein R⁶ is a carbon chain having 6 to 14 carbon atoms, which may be branched, and p and q are each independently an integer of 0 to 20 (col. 7 line 23-col. 8 line 37). The image recording acceleration liquid comprises water as a main liquid medium. To impart the desired physical properties to the image recording acceleration liquid, to prevent the image recording acceleration liquid from drying, and to improve the solubility

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stability of the surfactant and the compound for making insoluble the coloring agent contained in the recording liquid, water-soluble organic solvents can be used including polyhydric alcohols such as ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether and ethylene glycol monobenzyl ether. The organic solvents can be used alone or in combination when used with water (col. 17-50). The coloring agent may be water-resistant and light resistant water-soluble dye or a pigment (col. 12 line 11+). The surfactants represented by formulas (1) to (5) and other surfactants may be added to the recording liquid, whereby the surface tension of the recording liquid can be adjusted so as to improve the penetrability of the recording liquid into the recording liquid. Surfactants may also improve the wettability of a head member of an ink jet printer with the recording liquid and the ejection stability of the recording liquid (col. 14 lines 24-31). The only limitation in the claims not found by the Examiner is the average molecular weight. However, this limitation is considered inherent because there does not appear to be any reason why the cited reference would not contain a surfactant with applicants claimed molecular weight. Therefore it would have been obvious to use the ink composition of Nagai et al. to improve the wettability of the surface of the recording material.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 7, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner has maintained the 112 rejection, because the subject matter of claim 4 was not amended to overcome this rejection. Applicant argues that the reference of Nagai et al is so ambiguous as to what constitutes the surfactant

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represented by formula 5 as to make it impossible to determine whether or not it meets the recitation and calls the Examiner attention to Example 3. The Examiner would like to point Applicant to the claims of the reference wherein claim 10 the reference claims that R⁶ is a carbon chain having 6 to 14, therefore it is the position of the Examiner that Nagai et al would still read on the claims because a reference is not limited to working examples. *In re Fracalossi* 215 USPQ 569 (CCPA 1982).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Veronica F. Faison whose telephone number is 703-305-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays 8 am to 5 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Bell can be reached on 703-308-3823. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Veronica F. Faison
June 26, 2003



Mark L. Bell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700